

2015 Mental Hygiene Executive Summary
Erie County Dept. of Mental Health
Certified: John Grieco (5/1/14)

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Local Service Plan
Erie County Department of Mental Health

The behavioral health service delivery system continues to undergo unprecedented levels of change as the Affordable Care Act and New York State's Medicaid reform continues to unfold and transition from a fee for service to a Managed Care environment. The Erie County Department of Mental Health continues its efforts through the engagement of multiple stakeholders to facilitate this reform and to assist providers and the community in meeting the new and emerging paradigm.

The pace of this reform continues to quicken and evolve creating a short-term window to demonstrate the positive impact of service delivery. The ability to demonstrate effective services against such metrics as, but not limited to: timely access to care, positively impacting on avoidable emergency department presentations and hospitalizations, effective care management services, and integration with physical health are but a few paramount to meeting this challenge.

In addition, to demonstrating effective service delivery, the local behavioral health system must also be prepared to transition to new contracting, financing, cost accounting, and billing methods to ensure viability. While the reform does present risks, also evident are opportunities for improvements in service delivery and integrated care.

In order to support such challenges, Erie County will continue its reform focus on the following:

Priority Populations: Individuals who are at the greatest risk of needing non community based services (Hospitals, jail, homelessness, residential settings);
Efficacy of Practice: Continued evolvement of services that offer best or promising practices and are conducted with fidelity to such practice;
Access to Services: The capacity of the system will be managed to improve access for priority populations to the right service, at the right time, for the right reason and for the right length of stay;
Metrics that Matter: Practice that is data driven and data informed to ensure that service delivery is conducted in an efficacious manner with respect to clinical outcomes and costs.

Erie County is, therefore, committed to health care reform and continues planning for, implementing, and evaluating service delivery pilots and data structures that support the National and Statewide reform efforts. These efforts are centered upon improving the coordination of services across providers and systems to ensure timely and effective access to care in a manner that reduces risks and improves recovery related outcomes.